

Appl. No. 10/540320
Docket No. Z07873Q
Amdt. Dated May 18, 2010
Reply to Office Action mailed on 01/20/10
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listings of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An electrical appliance housing, comprising:
a hard plastic housing body defining a mechanism-activation aperture;
a soft plastic membrane configured to seal the aperture;
a hard plastic base;
an actuating button fastened to the hard plastic base; and
at least one elastic bar securing the base to the housing body,
wherein the membrane is directly bonded to the base and the elastic bar; and
wherein the base is free of through-holes.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein
the membrane defines a recess, at least an outer side of the base penetrating the
membrane through the recess.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein
the actuating button protrudes beyond the membrane towards an outer side of the
electrical appliance housing.

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7. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the actuating button and the base are joined together.
8. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the base defines a blind-end bore configured to receive a neck of the actuating button.
9. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 7, wherein the actuating button exhibits material homogeneity with the base, and the actuating button is integrally molded onto the base.
10. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the membrane comprises an edge section that encloses the base and projects beyond the base towards an outer side of the electrical appliance housing.
11. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 10, wherein the edge section of the membrane comprises an annular projection, the annular projection comprising an end face configured to engage an underside of the actuating button.
12. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 10, wherein the edge section of the membrane forms a boundary for a recess that axially adjoins the base and is configured to receive a section of the actuating button.
13. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the base comprises a radial projection.
14. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the housing body is bonded to the membrane.

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15. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein at least one protruding membrane support member is fastened to the base.
16. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the at least one elastic bar is shaped in an arcuate or undulating configuration.
17. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the base is free from penetration by the actuating button.
18. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the actuating button is positioned on the membrane.
19. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the actuating button is positioned in the membrane.
20. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the at least one elastic bar is integrally molded with the housing body.
21. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein at least one protruding membrane support member is fastened to the at least one elastic bar.
22. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 8, wherein the neck comprises at least one radial rib.
23. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 8, wherein the neck comprises at least one radial bead.

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24. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 10, wherein the edge section of the membrane abuts against an edge section of the actuating button with a press-fit.
25. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 12, wherein the recess and the section of the actuating button are shaped in a conical configuration.
26. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 25, wherein the recess has a cone angle that is smaller than a cone angle of a cooperating section of the actuating button.
27. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 13, wherein the radial projection comprises a circumferential shoulder.
28. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 14, wherein the housing body and the membrane are injection molded using a two-component injection-molding method.
29. (Currently amended) An electrical appliance housing, comprising:
a housing body defining a switch-activation aperture;
a rigid base positioned within the switch-activation aperture;
a flexible membrane extending across the aperture and directly bonded to the housing body and the base to seal the aperture in a substantially liquid-tight manner, with the base exposed on an inner side of the membrane;
a manually manipulable actuating button secured to the base and exposed on an outer side of the membrane, such that manual manipulation of the button resiliently flexes the membrane and moves the base, and
at least one elastic bar securing the base to the housing body,

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wherein the membrane is directly bonded to the at least one elastic bar; and
wherein the at least one elastic bar integrally extends from the housing body.

30. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein
the at least one elastic bar integrally extends from the housing body.

31. (Currently amended) The electrical appliance housing of claim 29, wherein
the at least one elastic bar integrally extends from the housing body the base is
free of through-holes.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 54, wherein
the at least one elastic bar is integrally molded with the housing body.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 54, wherein
the housing body is bonded to the membrane.

38. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 54, wherein
at least one protruding membrane support member is fastened to the base.

39. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein
the at least one elastic bar lies on an inner side of the membrane.

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40. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the at least one elastic bar is permanently attached to the housing body.
41. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the at least one elastic bar is integrally formed with the housing body.
42. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 29, wherein the at least one elastic bar lies on an inner side of the membrane.
43. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 29, wherein the at least one elastic bar is permanently attached to the housing body.
44. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 29, wherein the at least one elastic bar is integrally formed with the housing body.
45. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the at least one elastic bar underlies a portion of the membrane such that the portion of the membrane is supported by the at least one elastic bar.
46. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein a free end of the at least one elastic bar is located in a central region of the aperture.
47. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the at least one elastic bar is arranged in a plane parallel to a plane in which the aperture lies.
48. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 29, wherein the at least one elastic bar underlies a portion of the membrane such that the portion of the membrane is supported by the at least one elastic bar.

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49. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 29, wherein a free end of the at least one elastic bar is located in a central region of the aperture.

50. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 29, wherein the at least one elastic bar is arranged in a plane parallel to a plane in which the aperture lies.

51. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 54, wherein the at least one elastic bar underlies a portion of the membrane such that the portion of the membrane is supported by the at least one elastic bar.

52. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 54, wherein a free end of the at least one elastic bar is located in a central region of the aperture.

53. (Previously Presented) The electrical appliance housing of claim 54, wherein the at least one elastic bar is arranged in a plane parallel to a plane in which the aperture lies.

54. (Currently amended) An electrical appliance housing, comprising:
a hard plastic housing body defining a mechanism-activation aperture;
a soft plastic membrane configured to seal the aperture;
a hard plastic base bonded to the membrane;

an actuating button fastened to the hard plastic base, the actuating button protruding beyond the membrane towards an outer side of the electrical appliance housing; and

at least one elastic bar securing the base to the housing body,
wherein the membrane is directly bonded to the at least one elastic bar; and
wherein the at least one elastic bar integrally extends from the housing body.